

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A conscious sedation system comprising:
 - a controller which generates an audio request for a predetermined response from a patient [for monitoring the consciousness of the patient];
 - a response testing apparatus including:
 - a request assembly which communicates to the patient the audio request generated by the controller; and
 - a response assembly which is used by the patient to generate the response and which communicates the response to the controller, wherein the controller is programmed to generate a request and to analyze the patient's response to the request and determine and record a baseline audio stimulus [representing a level of patient consciousness] for the patient and after determining the baseline audio stimulus, the controller generates a request based upon the baseline stimulus for monitoring the patient's level of sedation.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the audio stimulus are at varying intensity levels.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the audio stimulus is continuous.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the audio stimulus is discrete.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) A response testing apparatus of a conscious sedation system comprising:
 - a request assembly which communicates to the patient a request;

a response assembly which is used by the patient to generate a response [representing a level of patient consciousness] and which communicates the response to a sub-controller, wherein the sub-controller is programmed to analyze the patient's response to the request and calibrates the patient's level of hearing based on the patient's response to establish a baseline; and

wherein the sub-controller utilizes the baseline as the initial stimulus level in assessing the level of sedation of the patient.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the request assembly generates audio vibration stimulus to the patient.
8. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the audio vibration stimulus are at varying intensity levels.
9. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the audio vibration stimulus is continuous.
10. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the audio vibration stimulus is discrete.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Withdrawn) A method for calibrating a patient's audio baseline level in a conscious sedation system comprising the steps of:
 - providing a controller which generates an audio request for a predetermined response from a patient and
 - a response testing apparatus including:
 - a request assembly which communicates to the patient the request generated by the controller; and
 - a response assembly which is used by the patient to generate the response and which communicates the response to the controller, wherein the controller is programmed to generate a request and to analyze the patient's response to the

request and determine and record a baseline audio stimulus for the patient and after determining the baseline audio stimulus, the controller generates a request based upon the baseline stimulus.

instructing the patient to respond when the patient hears an audio stimulus;

applying the audio stimulus to a patient;

analyzing patient's response or lack of response to the stimulus;

increasing the intensity of the stimulus if there is a lack of response;

repeating the steps until the patient responds to the stimulus;

establishing a baseline for a patient by recording the level of intensity at which the patient responds to the stimulus.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12 wherein the audio stimulus is continuous.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein the audio stimulus is discrete.

15. (Withdrawn) A method for monitoring a patient's response to the administration of a conscious sedation drug which comprises the steps of:

providing a controller which generates an audio request for a predetermined response from a patient and

a response testing apparatus including:

a request assembly which communicates to the patient the request generated by the controller; and

a response assembly which is used by the patient to generate the response and which communicates the response to the controller, wherein the controller is programmed to generate a request and to analyze the patient's response to the request and determine and record a baseline audio stimulus for the patient and after determining the baseline audio stimulus, the controller generates a request based upon the baseline stimulus.

establishing a baseline audio stimulus;
generating an audio stimulus based on the baseline stimulus;
applying a first audio stimulus to a patient who has received, is receiving or is about to receive a conscious sedation drug;
instructing the patient to respond to the audio stimulus;
monitoring a patient's response to the audio stimulus;
applying an additional audio stimulus to the patient when the patient has received, is receiving or is about to receive a dose of a conscious sedation drug, wherein the additional audio stimulus can be the same or different as the first audio stimulus;
monitoring the patient's response to the additional audio stimulus;
repeating the steps of applying the additional audio stimulus and monitoring the patient's response to the additional audio stimulus to determine the patient's level of sedation.